GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:626
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
SALIENT FEATURES OF DEEMED FOREST
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of 'Deemed Forest' as mentioned and brought out in the guidelines made by the Government;

(b) whether the sellers, common people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands were denied use of their own private forest products for construction purposes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) The areas identified by the expert committees appointed by the State Governments in accordance with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12.12.1996 in WP (C) 202/1995 also attracts the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 besides the areas indicated in the notification dated 25.10.1980 for Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Those areas have been often referred as 'Deemed Forest' in certain parlance.

(b) to (c) No settler or common people have been denied the use of their own private forest produces in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The use of forest produce by settlers, common people is regulated as per the provisions of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Protected Forest Rules, 1986 read with Supreme Court judgment dated 07.05.2002. Therefore, question of denial does not arise.

(d) The A&N Administration has been following the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 07.05.2002, in the matters of forest and forestry working in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The UT Administration has filed an I.A. No. 1264 seeking certain modifications of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order on 07.05.2002 in respect of use of deemed forest for various development activities.